

Decoration Day.

BY REV. W. F. JONES.

It is vain to decry sentiment as unworthy of men and women of a larger growth. Governments owe their origin and perpetuity more perhaps to sentiment than we think. The best life of nations was crystallized around a name and a place. The sentiment of nationality has inspired the noblest deeds of heroism and produced the best of our literature affords. Our nation has found its chiefest potency in the sentiment of loyal attachment to all the interests typified by the word American. As once it was a noble thing to be a Roman, so to-day the true citizen holds the word America the dearest of earthly names.

This 30th day of May owes its observance to sentiment, but a sentiment which intimately concerns our national life, and which dignifies our ideal of patriotism. This day is a memorial of our illustrious dead. But it is far more. It not only marks our appreciation of their past services, but it is in fact a fresh declaration of our adherence to the principles for which they died. It is a memorial day, but it is also a declaration to the world of the vitality of the idea of nationality for which these men fought, bled and died. May it never be degraded from that high function, as our American Fourth of July has been!

The organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic is the living representatives of that militant host which in former years waged the republic's battles. It is fitting that these survivors of that conflict should bear their dead comrades on their hearts to-day. It is a time of sacred memories, yet not altogether sad. They themselves would not have it so. The cause for which they died lives, and such a cause is greater than any man or band of men. The principles for which they faced shot and shell have triumphed, and been re-affirmed for all time. The stars and stripes float proudly over a united country, and there exists but one national government on American soil. Think you they would have us sad on this memorial day? Nay, not so. Not with sadness do we best honor their valor, and show our appreciation of their services. We rejoice in the results of their services, though it cost their lives. We exult in freedom's victory, and regret only that it had to be bought at such a price.

There are some who decry the observance of this day, saying that it tends to perpetuate the animosities and antagonism of the past. Their criticism can apply only to the misuse of the day, and can have no reference to its proper observance. They have woefully misread history, and failed to catch the significance of this day, or they would commend such occasions as these. I believe that the memory of our civil war may not, and ought not to pass away—that were to cast away the priceless boon it bought—that were to rob the present age of the lessons of the past, and even make the repetition of that sad past a possibility. No, let us rather cherish the memory of the past, and take heed to its voice of warning and instruction. This involves no bitterness on our part, the bitterness belongs to those whose error the failure of the war betokened. Generosity will become the victor. We accord to the vanquished purity of motive and chivalrous courage, even while we must condemn the error of their course. We forgive their error though we can never approve it.

The facts which our soldiers made history, we, of this generation, learn from books and heresay. The record, oft-repeated, tends to make us a patriotic people. It fosters the feeling of loyal devotion to country, so essential to our highest national well-being. In various ways it enriches our national life.

We mourn our soldiers dead. We extol their brave deeds, and delight to repeat the stirring record of their devotion unto death. We cannot speak too highly of those who have gone. "Their works do follow them."

But we have among us a Grand Army no less deserving of mention. It has among it, men as brave, as loyal, as true-hearted, and as devoted to liberty's cause as any who sleep beneath the sod. They fought as

valiantly and they suffered as uncompromisingly as those who rest in trenches on battle fields or those perished miserably amidst the squalor of Southern prisons. We have among us to-day valorous knights, brave warriors, as worthy of praise as those who fell in the fierce charges of Fredericksburg or the stubborn defense of Gettysburg. Let us accord the living—our Grand Army brethren—the honor they bravely won and richly deserve. God in his providence did not call upon them to seal their loyalty with their blood and they abide among us, living attestations of God's protection of our republic in its darkest hours.

We owe these survivors of the war our admiration and our thanks. This debt our people seem ready to pay. But there is another debt which our government owes these veterans, to whose efforts it owes its existence. I refer to pensions. This debt there are some among us niggardly enough to begrudge the soldiers. They would deal penuriously with those men who offered their lives in the hour of the nation's peril! They refuse to put a premium on patriotism. They are untrue to the cherished convictions of patriots in all lands. Nothing is so vital to a nation's stability as the sentiment universally held, and liberally evinced by pensions, that those who fight for the nation in her time of need are well deserving at the nation's hands in her time of prosperity, and when perhaps the soldier may be failing in his power to help himself. Surely this day with its memories should incline us to liberal dealing with the soldiers. Then will our nation never lack for defenders in any emergency.

At such a time as this, it may not be amiss to refresh our minds with the causes which produced the civil war, and to revive the memories of those tremendous times which tried men's souls.

To a superficial observer it may have seemed as though secession was but the expression of disappointed political hopes, that it was a protest, in a fit of rage, of the South against the election of Mr. Lincoln. So terrible a convulsion proceeded from no such slight cause. The election of Mr. Lincoln was but the occasion for the bursting of the storm which had been long brewing. Forces had been at work, visible only to far-seeing men, which made the conflict inevitable, irrepressible. Daniel Webster had heard the low mutterings of the storm, and in a burst of his most impassioned oratory, he prays to be delivered from the sight of disunion and the shock of arms. Men, who like Webster, could read the signs of the times, feared what actually came, even while hoping that it might be averted. Who can read Washington's farewell address, and not catch the note of prophecy in his words as he pleads with his countrymen to "cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to their national union, and to regard it as the palladium of their political safety and prosperity?" Who shall say that he had not in mind the very evil which later rent the nation, when he warned Americans against everything which tended to alienate one section from another. The student, who reads the history of the first three quarters of a century of our national life, cannot fail to see that slavery was a bone of contention from the first. Though the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution avoid any mention of slavery, it existed, the root of untold misery to the nation, and as it grew, this Upas tree of evil cast the baleful shadow upon all our institutions, and sent its poison into every artery of our national life. Whatever else may have contributed to intensify the antagonism of North and South, and to accentuate existing differences, certain it is that slavery in its manifold interests, the civil war is to be traced. Our nation failed to comprehend the enormity of the evil at first, and failed to deal with it as it should. Toleration and even restriction were inadequate to deal with it. Only when it threatened the nation's life did men realize the necessity of its destruction. Men may moralize on the iniquity of the Civil War, and disclaim its necessity, but to me, the plain teaching of history seems to be, that a nation which is untrue, for policy's sake, to

her truest convictions and her best moral sense, may well expect finally to be compelled to wipe out her dishonor with fire and sword. "Whatsoever a man soweth that also shall he reap." Our nation reaped what it had sowed. It reaped the bitter fruit of temporizing and compromising with a moral and national wrong. May the present profit by the teaching of the past!

When Beauregard fired on Sumter he fired on the nation, he attacked the fundamental principles of our existence, namely, that we are a nation. The flag upon which he fired stood for the nation. Men forgot slavery in those early days of the war, and thought only of the nation whose life was imperiled. The burden of every loyal heart was that the union must be preserved at all hazards. Men were willing that slavery should continue to exist, rather than that our union should be disrupted. As to slavery the North stood ready to compromise, but secession was not to be tolerated. So the war was caused by slavery because a war for the union. Loyalty to the stars and stripes, far more than hatred of slavery, sent the boys in blue down in Southern swamps and wildernesses to face the leaden hail. Could the rebellion have been crushed in three or six months, slavery would not have been destroyed. But Almighty God had determined to purge our land of this foul stain, even though it must be through the dread ordeal of fire and sword. In the second and third year of the war, men began to see with Lincoln that "our land could not exist half slave and half free." Men saw that the fruits of this prolonged contest would be lost unless slavery were destroyed. The success of the Northern arms actualized the emancipation proclamation, and whatever may be the mistakes of the North in dealing with the negro since the war, certain it is that Northern arms struck no nobler blow than that which struck the shackles from the slave. The union for which they fought was preserved, but they builded wiser than they knew when the policy of peace affirmed the expedient of war, and the black man was declared a citizen and no chattel.

The world never witnessed a more momentous struggle than this. The fate of republics hung on its issue, and the possibility of self-government. It decided the question whether America was to be a second Europe, occupied by several hostile and jealous powers. It affirmed for all time the unity of our composite race. It established the United States as the strongest and proudest nation on the earth. It materially changed the political history of the world ever since. It prevented the dissipation of the mighty energies of our united country, and gained for our loved land the proud title of the ideal government of the world.

Do we not well then to call to mind this day the valorous deeds of the soldiers living and dead. Defenders of their country were they, brave men and true. They fought not as hired mercenaries, as the warriors of Alexander, not to extend the confines of their land, as the legions of Caesar, nor to realize the vaunting ambition of one man, as the soldiers of Napoleon. They fought in obedience to the truest, noblest instinct of the patriot. They fought for Fatherland, for the flag of their country. They bared their breasts to the shafts of war, that no harm should come to the nation's life.

The world shared the opinion of the South that the North would not fight. Northerners were known for a commercial people, and the shrewd, grasping, calculating Yankee had all to lose by the hazards of war. But a brighter flame of patriotism never burned in human hearts than in the Northland in those opening days of '61. The nation's peril healed all differences, stilled all rivalries. The German and Irishman vied with the American in being the first in the field. Wisconsin and Michigan were hand in glove with New York and Maine in hurrying forward the noblest of their sons. The best was not too good for the nation's need.

Europe, accustomed to trained and disciplined troops, laughed at our raw recruits. But admiration soon followed ridicule, for the merchant,

the artisan and the farmer fought like veterans. We know not which most to admire the headlong dash of our men on Missionary Ridge or their unyielding obstinacy in the trenches at Gettysburg, their gallant courage at Fredericksburg, or their steady valor at Chickamauga, their intrepidity in the field or their patient endurance in the prison pens of Andersonville and Libby. Napoleon's campaign can furnish no record of a loftier courage than that displayed by Northern soldiers. Europe has had gallant captains and skilled strategists, but well can we match them in our silent, invincible Grant, our valorous Sherman, the dashing Sheridan, "Fighting Joe" Hooker, Meade, Logan and scores of others only less renowned.

We accord our soldiers the meed of praise, and render them the tribute of our presence here. Their memories tell us of the worth of country, and teach us the duty of loyalty. We are drawn closer to each other as we contemplate the common heritage they died to save us. This day's memories endears to us our blood bought flag, and makes sacred our allegiance to it.

Sleep on, ye warriors dead. Not in vain have ye died. The present age so profits by your sacrifice that it holds your loving remembrance, and enshrines your names among her honored ones. Cheerfully you left home and dear ones for war's horrid array. Bravely you fought, and when death came, you sank to rest possessed by the thought that "Tis sweet for one's country to die." No more shall drum beat and trumpet call you to arms. No more shall you answer to the roll call. Your place knows you no more. Yet ye cannot die. Ye are a deathless band. Your spirits are near us to-day, and we swear allegiance to the noble principles for which you shed your blood. We are heirs of your fame. We will cherish your memories. A word we have for you, our Grand Army brethren. We would not wait until you have joined the great majority before we express to you our thanks and admiration. Well may you be proud of the past, and love to cherish the memories of the times when shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart you waged your country's battles. Your comrades are one by one dropping out of the ranks, fainting by the way. You mourn for them as for fellow-soldiers, tender and true. They have but gone before to join the Grand Army on the other side. Long may you live to enjoy your well-earned laurels. May your declining days be cheered by a sense of duty well and bravely done, and by the assurance of your country's gratitude. May you never live to see the flame of patriotism burn less brightly in our land than now. The past which your labors secured shall be our dearest heritage. The nation whose life you saved, will live in future ages because the spirit of our soldiers endures. While the memory of our soldiers lasts our nation will be safe, and the stars and stripes will proudly float over a loyal and united people.

GIANT SAFETY BICYCLES.



MANUFACTURED BY
H. A. LOZIER & CO.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Our regular line of Safety Bicycles consists of the Giant, Giantess, Ball Bearing Little Giant and Little Giant. Besides these wheels, and more especially for the accommodation of the trade, we shall be ready early in the new year with our Pneumatic Giant and Crashed Giant.

On all these machines, with the exception of the last two named, is used the celebrated Balle Spring Fork, a device which is universally conceded to be the best of its kind, and which has been demonstrated to be a perfect success through a series of experiments extending over a period of six months.

Another important novelty found on these wheels this year is the new Yost Saddle. Still another feature of interest is our Ball Bearing Head, which we have recently adopted, and apply to the Giant, Giantess and Ball Bearing Little Giant.

PRICE LIST:
Giant, 30-inch wheel, \$65.00
Giantess, 28-inch wheel, 35-inch front, 75.00
Little Giant, Ball Bearing, 45.00
Little Giant, Adjustable Cone, 35.00
For further particulars inquire of
CHAS. RISS, Agt.
Wright House Barber Shop, Alma, Mich.

Every bottle of Arnica & Oil Liniment sold is warranted by the proprietors to give satisfaction or money will be refunded. For sale by B. S. Webb.

TOLEDO ANN ARBOR AND NORTH MICHIGAN RAILWAY.

Taking effect Oct. 15, 1890.
Standard Time.

Trains Going South.
No. 1, 7:25 a.m.
No. 3, 4:15 p.m.

Trains Going North.
No. 2, 12:00 m.
No. 4, 9:35 p.m.

Train No. 2 waits 45 minutes for dinner at Alma.

There is also an additional train service north of Mt. Pleasant of two passenger trains.

W. H. BENNETT, Gen. Pass. Agent.
H. W. ASHLEY, Gen. Manager.
A. D. HITCHCOCK, Agent Alma.

DETROIT, NOVEMBER 30, 1890.
LANSING & NORTHERN R. R.

	Alma	St. Louis	Wheelock	Merrill	Hemlock	Paines	Saginaw
Alma	7:25	7:35	7:45	7:55	8:05	8:15	8:25
St. Louis	7:35	7:45	7:55	8:05	8:15	8:25	8:35
Wheelock	7:45	7:55	8:05	8:15	8:25	8:35	8:45
Merrill	7:55	8:05	8:15	8:25	8:35	8:45	8:55
Hemlock	8:05	8:15	8:25	8:35	8:45	8:55	9:05
Paines	8:15	8:25	8:35	8:45	8:55	9:05	9:15
Saginaw	8:25	8:35	8:45	8:55	9:05	9:15	9:25

CHICAGO & WEST MICHIGAN RY.

	Grand Rapids	Holland	Grand Haven	Muskegon	Benton Harbor	St. Joseph	Chicago
Grand Rapids	7:00	7:10	7:20	7:30	7:40	7:50	8:00
Holland	7:10	7:20	7:30	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10
Grand Haven	7:20	7:30	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10	8:20
Muskegon	7:30	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10	8:20	8:30
Benton Harbor	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10	8:20	8:30	8:40
St. Joseph	7:50	8:00	8:10	8:20	8:30	8:40	8:50
Chicago	8:00	8:10	8:20	8:30	8:40	8:50	9:00

*Every day—Other trains week days only.
9:00 a.m. Train from Grand Rapids has Free Chair car to Chicago.
1:00 p.m. Train from Grand Rapids has Wagner Buffet Parlor car to Chicago. Seats 50c.
11:35 p.m. Train from Grand Rapids has Wagner Palace Sleeping car to Chicago.
5:05 p.m. Train from Grand Rapids has Free Chair car to Muskegon.

GEORGE DELAVENS,
Gen'l Pass. Agent,
Grand Rapids.

BEEBE'S BLOOD AND LIVER SYRUP.

Is guaranteed to cure all diseases of the Liver and Kidneys especially Dyspepsia and Rheumatism. The quantity and small dose makes it the cheapest medicine in the market. Try it, satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

For sale by
B. S. WEBB.

PROF. DIEFFENBACH'S PROCTAN CAPSULES.

Sure Cure for Weak Men, as proved by reports of leading physicians. State age in ordering. Price \$1. Catalogue Free.

G&G GREEK SPECIFIC
Cures all skin diseases, eruptions, and skin diseases. No matter how long standing. Price \$2.00. Order from
THE PERU DRUG & CHEMICAL CO.
159 Wisconsin Street, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

WHITE PINE CO.
Compound for Coughs, Colds and All Lung Troubles.

BEEBE'S
A certain cure for Croup in Children. Warrented and Sold by B. S. Webb, Drugist, Alma, Mich. at 50c. and 50c. per Bottle.

VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA
Best & Goes Farthest—The Standard Cocoa of the World.

Please remember that this is the cheapest, healthiest, and most delicious beverage and article of diet in existence, costing less than half a cent a cup, and guaranteeing absolute safety from dyspepsia. Don't deprive yourself or your children one moment longer of this delightful, nutritious drink-food. The strong may use it with pleasure, the most delicate with benefit. A delight to all.

For sale by every grocer.

PROBATE ORDER. State of Michigan, County of Gratiot, s.s.
Estate of Mrs. Abba E. Burrill deceased. The undersigned have been appointed by the Judge of Probate of said County, commissioners on claims in the matter of said estate, and six months from the fourth day of May A. D. 1891, having been allowed by said Judge of Probate to receive and examine claims against said estate, in which to present their claims to us for examination and adjustment. Notice is hereby given that we will meet on Saturday, the 24th day of June, 1891, and on Tuesday the 3rd day of November, 1891, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of each of those days, at the office of C. W. Willits, in the City of St. Louis in said county to receive, examine and adjust such claims. Dated May 15th A. D. 1891.

Charles J. Willits,
Lemuel Saviers, Commissioners.
Henry W. Sandall

ORDER OF PUBLICATION. State of Michigan, 22d Judicial Circuit, in Chancery. Suit pending in Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot in Chancery, at Ithaca, on the 10th day of April, 1891, John Saxbee Complainant vs. Sarah Saxbee Defendant. In this case it appearing by affidavit on file that defendant, Sarah Saxbee, is not a resident of this state but is a resident of the Dominion of Canada, the hearing of motion of Francis Palmer, solicitor for complainant, it is ordered that defendant enter her appearance in said court on or before four months from the date of this order, and that in the event of her failure to do so, the cause this order to be published in the Alma Record, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county, said publication to be continued once in each week for six weeks in succession.

Francis Palmer,
Solicitor for Compt.

Geo. S. Aldrich,
One of the Clerks of Court,
Com. in and for
Gratiot Co. Mich.

PROBATE ORDER. State of Michigan, County of Gratiot s.s.—At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca on the 5th day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety one. Present, J. Lee Potts, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the Estate of Charles Taylor deceased. On reading and filing the petition, duly verified, of Henry A. Delavan administrator of the said estate asking a sale of the real estate belonging to the said estate for the payment of the debts of said estate and the payment of the expense of administration of said estate which said real estate has lately been deemed as belonging to said estate which petition bears date the 6th day of May 1891, and said lands described as the S. 1/4 of S. 34 of N. E. 1/4 of Sec. 36, and one acre of the S. E. 1/4 of Sec. 36, also ten acres of land in the S. E. corner of S. E. 1/4 of the N. W. 1/4 of said section 36, all in the Township of 2nd, Gratiot County and State of Michigan. Thereupon it is ordered, that Monday, the 2nd day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition, and all other persons interested in said estate, are required to appear at a session of said court, then to be held in the Probate office in the village of Ithaca and show cause, if there be any, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted. And it is further ordered, that said petition be given notice to the persons interested in said estate of the pendency of said petition, and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County, four successive weeks previous to said day of hearing.

(A true copy.)
J. LEE POTTS,
Judge of Probate.

MORTGAGE SALE.—Default having been made in the payment of a certain mortgage made and executed by Daniel G. Miller, of North Star, Gratiot County, Michigan, (for part purchase money) to Sarah L. Johnson, dated October 18th, 1889, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Gratiot County, Michigan, on the 15th day of October, 1891, in book 62 of mortgages at page 35, and the same now owned by me, and whereas, the said mortgage has been duly assigned to the said Sarah L. Johnson to me, Nathan Church, by assignment bearing date March 14th, 1891, (acknowledged March 16th, 1891,) and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for said county of Gratiot on the 25th day of April, 1891, in book 62 of mortgages at page 35, and the same now owned by me, and whereas, the amount claimed to be due and unpaid upon said mortgage at the date of this notice is the sum of Three hundred and ten dollars for principal and interest now due. And no suit or proceedings either at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the whole or any part of the debt secured by said mortgage; now therefore, by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage contained, and of the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the land and premises therein described, at public auction or vendue to the highest bidder, at the front door of the Gratiot County Court House, in the village of Ithaca, Michigan, on the 25th day of July, 1891, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy said debt, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent, and all legal costs, including an attorney fee of \$15.00 as provided by statute, which said lands and premises are described in said mortgage as follows, viz: Commencing at the south east corner of the north-east quarter of section thirty-three (33) town ten (10) north of range two (2) west, thence north fifty (50) rods; thence west sixty (60) rods; thence south thirty (30) rods; thence east ninety-six (96) rods to the place of beginning, containing thirty acres, in the county of Gratiot and State of Michigan.

Dated April 16th, 1891.

NATHAN CHURCH,
Assignee of Mortgage.
J. L. CLARK,
Attorney for Assignee.

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BEEBE'S
A certain cure for Croup in Children. Warrented and Sold by B. S. Webb, Drugist, Alma, Mich. at 50c. and 50c. per Bottle.

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Compound for Coughs, Colds and All Lung Troubles.

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VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA
Best & Goes Farthest—The Standard Cocoa of the World.

Please remember that this is the cheapest, healthiest, and most delicious beverage and article of diet in existence, costing less than half a cent a cup, and guaranteeing absolute safety from dyspepsia. Don't deprive yourself or your children one moment longer of this delightful, nutritious drink-food. The strong may use it with pleasure, the most delicate with benefit. A delight to all.

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